

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE.)

SENATOR SUMNER'S FORTHCOMING SPEECH ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Senator Sumner has the floor in the Senate for Thursday next at one o'clock. His speech will be chiefly upon the Trent affair. He will probably approve the line of policy followed by Mr. Seward. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Mr. Sumner has peculiar facilities for information, which are greatly enhanced by his intimate and extensive acquaintance with leading European statesmen.

ARRIVAL OF A REBEL DESERTER.

A deserter from the rebel army escaped from near the Occoquan yesterday, and succeeded in getting safely within the lines of General Heintzelman's division. His clothing was very shabby, except his overcoat, which was new. He was originally from Maine, and being a Northern man was closely watched, having been kept most of the time in one of the hospitals as an assistant. He procured a horse, however, and escaped.

ARRIVAL OF A REBEL PRISONER.

Yesterday a Virginia farmer named Richard Lacy, who is suspected of having given aid and comfort to the enemy, came inside the lines of General Heintzelman's division near the Quaker church, in the vicinity of Accotink, with the ostensible purpose of hauling wood to ship from Dage creek. Both he and a river captain, who accompanied him, were sent to the Provost Marshal, at Alexandria.

FOUR MOUNTED REBELS CAPTURED.

The pickets of the Thirty-eighth New York regiment, Colonel Ward, who went on outpost duty yesterday, captured four mounted rebels, with their arms and equipments. It is believed that they belonged to Colonel Stewart's Virginia cavalry regiment.

NIGHT ALARM IN THE IRISH BRIGADE.

About eleven o'clock last night a number of shots were fired from the woods on the pickets of the Sixty-ninth regiment, Irish Brigade, Colonel Nugent commanding, beyond Edsall's Hill. Several men were fired by the rebels during the night—twenty-five in all—but no damage was done to any one on our side. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly had his reserve under arms immediately and without causing a general alarm, but the darkness of the night prevented his capturing any of the rebels.

GEORGE BOOTH, PRIVATE IN COMPANY A, EIGHTEENTH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT, COMMITTED SUICIDE LAST EVENING BY SHOOTING HIMSELF THROUGH THE HEART WITH HIS MUSKET. He has been in ill health and despondent for some time. He came from Bedford, Mass., where he leaves a wife and three children. This is the first suicide that has occurred in our army.

GEN. LANE'S WAR POLICY NOT ENDORSED BY THE PRESIDENT.

The statement that the President cordially endorses the position of General Lane, with reference to the conduct of the war, is without foundation. The policy proposed by General Lane is totally at variance with that announced by the President, and intended to be unswervingly adhered to by the administration.

DEATHS IN THE ARMY.

The following deaths of soldiers are reported—
 Jno. C. Richardson, Company C, Wm. J. Leary, Company D; J. A. Dowling and Wm. H. Pico, Company C, Eleventh Maine Volunteers.
 Christian Stridenbranch, Company I, Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania.
 Morris B. Benna and Bishop Wood, Company C, First Berdan's Sharpshooters.

Andrew J. Newman, Company C, Wm. A. Withington, Company F; Nelson D. Leslie and Geo. O. Hunt, Company F, Second Berdan's Sharpshooters.
 Thos. Clark, Company C, Third United States Artillery.
 Archibald Farnon, Company C, Cavalry.
 Eldridge Herrick, Company G, Rochester (N. Y.) regiment.

Corporal Wm. S. Richman, Company I, Eighth Pennsylvania Reserve Corps.
 Private Bennett, Company K, Twenty-fourth New York.
 Peter Falk, Company K, Fifty-eighth New York.
 Wm. Cummings, Company C, Fourth Michigan.
 Benj. Covert, Company K, Eighty-ninth New York.
 J. D. Brown, Company H, Seventy-ninth New York cavalry.
 Jno. Hubert, Company K, Sixty-first New York.
 James Meade, Company J, Second United States Infantry.

Charles F. Burnett, Company O, Twenty-third Pennsylvania.
 Levi West, Company G, Third Vermont.
 George A. Humphrey, Company F, Ninth New York cavalry.
 Wm. Leach, Company H, Fifty-ninth New York.

PRISONERS SENT FROM GEN. BAKER'S DIVISION.

Captain Kihl, of the Reindeer, brought up this afternoon two rebel prisoners from General Baker's division. Also twenty-two rebel bushwhackers of India rubber overcoats, besides several sacks of undershirts and a large quantity of quinine. The prisoners were captured while they were carrying these stores from the Maryland to the Virginia shore.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE VERMONT TROOPS.

The Inspector of the Sanitary Commission, who has recently visited the Vermont regiments on the Potomac, notes a great improvement in the general health of the regiments, attributable to improvements adopted in the location of their encampments.

THE ARMY.

Adjutant John McQuade, of the Fourteenth New York Volunteers, was today appointed an Aid-de-Camp on the staff of General Fitz John Porter, vice Lieutenant McQuinn. Second Guards, recently promoted and ordered to his regiment.

MILITARY CONTRACTS FOR HORSES.

An official communication in response to a resolution of the House was today transmitted to that body by the Secretary of War, covering the reports from the Quartermaster's department, by which it appears that George Ramsdell, of Pennsylvania, has been awarded the contract for feeding five hundred and twenty-five disabled horses during the winter, and Charles Chouteau for seventy-one. It appears that the contract system thus far has failed entirely. Advertisements for bids for almost everything required have been made, but not in a single instance have the lowest bidders come forward and closed their contracts. Of the horses placed on Chouteau's farm at thirty-five cents per head per diem, only about thirty-five of them have become serviceable. The remainder are not considered worth keeping.

THE CASE OF COLONEL KERRIGAN.

Judge Higgins, one of the counsel for Colonel Kerrigan, emphatically contradicts the report that evidence has been elicited on the trial establishing without doubt the charge of his having given information to the enemy, and further that the evidence for the prosecution has not yet been closed. The paragraph transmitted yesterday was based on what was considered at the time reliable information.

A BRANCH MEET AT NEW YORK—THE GREYSTOWN AFFAIR.

Representative Ward today gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to establish a college department in the Army office at New York.

He also presented the memorial of the citizens of Greystown for the appointment of commissioners to inquire into the jurisdiction of the authorities of Greystown over Punta Arenas, to ascertain the value of the property destroyed by the bombardment of that town.

TROUBLE AMONG THE ARMY SURGEONS.

It is said that the introduction of the homoeopathic practice of medicine has raised somewhat of a commotion among many of the regular surgeons in the army.

THE INDIAN TRIBES.

Chief Justice Taney, who is on his way to the West on business of importance connected with the Indian tribes.

THE FIRST MILITARY EXECUTION IN WASHINGTON.

A soldier was executed in this city today, upon sentence of a court martial, it being the first example of the kind since Washington was placed under martial law. Michael Lannan was hung for the crime of shooting Sergeant Brennan, in Georgetown, Oct. 29, 1861. The execution was conducted by the Provost Marshal, Brigadier General Andrew Porter, in the quietest manner possible. Lannan had for some time entertained a grudge against Sergeant Brennan, and when the homicide occurred he was imprisoned by the Provost Marshal, and was being held in the Provost Marshal's office.

At the execution, Lannan replied to the Sergeant, immediately, and when Brennan turned quickly, and asked what he said, Lannan yelled his name and fired, killing the Sergeant instantly. The culprit was tried by court martial, and sentenced to be hung. Major General McClellan, upon a careful review of the proceedings, which disclosed facts that would have convicted him of murder in the first degree before any impartial jury, signed the death warrant. Brennan was an officer much respected, and his murder was the subject of much comment at the time.

Thursdays, at ten o'clock, Lannan was taken from his post at guard mounting. Lannan replied to the Sergeant, immediately, and when Brennan turned quickly, and asked what he said, Lannan yelled his name and fired, killing the Sergeant instantly. The culprit was tried by court martial, and sentenced to be hung. Major General McClellan, upon a careful review of the proceedings, which disclosed facts that would have convicted him of murder in the first degree before any impartial jury, signed the death warrant. Brennan was an officer much respected, and his murder was the subject of much comment at the time.

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the central guard house, and accompanied by his spiritual adviser, Father Walter, of St. Patrick's church, conveyed by way of Ninth street to Pennsylvania avenue, and thence to Franklin square. Lannan, wearing his regular uniform, and with the exception of an unusual pale complexion, looked as usual. He was short in stature, and dark complexioned.

At eleven o'clock an escort, composed of five detachments from regiments of United States Infantry, took the prisoner through Fourteenth street and Vermont avenue to the place of execution, a vacant space between O and P streets. Here was a gallows, which had been erected during the morning, and around this the troops were ranged in a hollow square. The prisoner was taken from the carriage at a quarter past eleven o'clock, and, with a single armed guard, approached the scaffold, accompanied by Father Walter. He mounted the scaffold with a firm step, and, looking around upon the soldiery without flinching, General Devoreux, Assistant Adjutant General, took a clear voice the order for the execution, to which the prisoner calmly listened, occasionally looking around for the last time at his comrades upon the field. Three or four hundred spectators only had gathered around the military to witness the impressive spectacle.

The troops were brought to a parade rest, and the prisoner requested that his arms, which had been pinned behind him, might be loosened, as he desired to meet his fate like a man. The request was complied with, and Father Walter put on his sacred vest, and knelt for a few minutes to pray for the last time for him who was about to expire. Lannan looked around when the priest had concluded his prayer, and said, in a cheerful and audible voice, as he looked around upon the military cordon, "Good bye, soldiers, good bye." The black cap was drawn over his face, and he stepped firmly upon the trap, where he placed himself in the position of the soldier, with his arms by his side. All things being ready, Corporal Brown, at half-past eleven o'clock, placed his foot upon the spring, and Lannan, who had not been under for an instant, fell, and his life was over.

There were a few muscular contractions of the body, but the spinal cord was broken, and in a few minutes the body lay in its last position, and pronounced life extinct. The corpse was placed in an army wagon, and conveyed by comrades of the deceased to the Catholic Cemetery for burial.

Within half an hour after the execution the scaffold was removed, and persons living a square distant hardly knew that such an affair had taken place in their neighborhood.

The general order for the execution of Lannan, which recites the history of the case, concludes as follows—

The Major General commanding confirms the proceedings of the Court Martial, and orders that the body of Lannan, the deceased, was sergeant of the guard at Georgetown, D. C., on the 29th of October last. The prisoner was a private in the 1st New York Heavy Artillery. When the hour came for posting that relief, Lannan was not at the guardhouse. As Sergeant Brennan had previously given Lannan a pass to go outside guard house, a very few minutes afterwards, as Brennan was passing by his post, the accused fired and killed him. The proof is clear that he did this in satisfaction of the grudge he bore towards the deceased, not only for the blow given him at the guard house, a few minutes before, but for old scores, which he mentioned in his statement to the court. It is very regrettable that he was commissioned or non-commissioned officer to strike a soldier, except when it is absolutely necessary to prevent a mutiny or to obtain obedience to a lawful order, or to punish a soldier for an offence. But for a soldier, because of being struck, to shoot his immediate superior, is at war with every principle of military subordination. It was in an evil hour that Lannan, in his rage, shot at Georgetown to have their arms loaded. The prisoner must have loaded his musket for the purpose of carrying it to the guardhouse, and he did so, as he was seen to do in the case of the features which distinguish a murderer from a simple misanthrope. Private Lannan, in the eyes of the law, was a deserter from the United States army, in pursuance of the sentence of the Court Martial, he was by the deed until he died, on Monday, the 29th of October last, a deserter from the United States army, and the limits of the district as the Provost Marshal of Washington and Georgetown was directed.

LEVER AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

There is to be a levee at the White House to-morrow evening.

WOOD FOR THE ARMY.

A most lively business is now being carried on in supplying wood for the army. All along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, as far up as Cumberland on the Maryland and Virginia shore, wood choppers are cutting wood and shipping it by canal to this city. As each regiment is allowed two hundred and fifty cords for its winter consumption, the entire amount required is immense, involving a total cost of a million of money. The government now pays four dollars a cord for wood on the ground.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1862.

THE NEW SENATOR FROM OREGON—CHAMBERLAIN'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. NORTON, (rep.) of Oregon, presented the credentials of Hon. Benjamin Stark, who was appointed Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Baker.

Mr. FENIMORE, (rep.) of Me., moved that the administration of the oath be suspended for the present, and the credentials of Mr. Stark, together with certain papers which he held in his (Mr. Fenimore's) hands, be referred to the Judiciary Committee. The papers were well attested by many of the most respectable inhabitants of Portland, Oregon. The papers state that Mr. Stark is understood to be an open and avowed secessionist, that he defends the course of the South, and had given utterance to statements at war with the government, such as approving of the attack on Fort Sumter, and declaring that in the case of war he would sell his property and go South and fight for the rebellion.

Mr. BAKER, (rep.) of Ind., said that there was no precedent for such a course. He said that he had no objection to Mr. Stark's taking the oath, and that he had no objection to his being seated in the Senate. He said that he had no objection to his being seated in the Senate.

Mr. LAMAR, (rep.) of Ill., said that the case had better be referred to the Judiciary Committee. He said that he had no objection to Mr. Stark's taking the oath, and that he had no objection to his being seated in the Senate. He said that he had no objection to his being seated in the Senate.

Mr. STARK, (rep.) of Mass., said that he was unprepared to answer the charges against him. He said that he had no objection to his being seated in the Senate. He said that he had no objection to his being seated in the Senate.

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Mr. WILSON offered a resolution asking the Secretary of War to report by what authority Cyrus Seymour had been appointed a soldier in the Illinois regiment.

TAX ON TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

The COLLEGE, (rep.) of Vt., offered a resolution that the President be authorized to inquire into the expediency of placing a tax on conveying intelligence by telegraph.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Mr. DAVIS, (EXCH.) of Ky., introduced a joint resolution that the President be authorized to exchange prisoners of the United States for prisoners taken from the army of the United States.

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